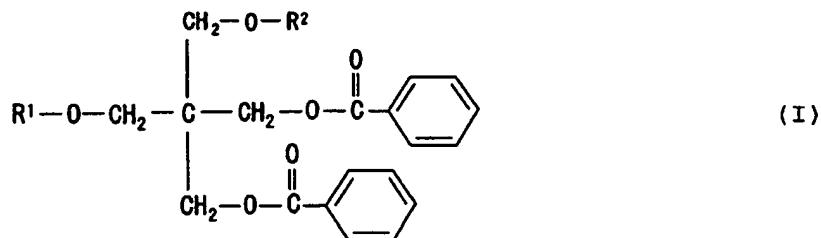


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising:
an ester of pentaerythritol and a benzoic acid having the formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² independently indicate a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms or a benzoic acid residue, provided that R¹ and R² are not both benzoic acid residues, and

a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

2. (Original) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of said formula (I) is a 2-ethylhexanoic acid residue and R² is a benzoic acid residue.
3. (Original) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount blended of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of formula (I) is 5 to 80% by mass.
4. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition is a lipstick.
5. (New) A cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the composition improves gloss of lips after application of the composition to the lips.